
From: Stanley, William <wstanley@lmhosp.org>
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Subject: Testimony from Lawrence + Memorial Hospital (New London) for this evening's hearing

**TESTIMONY OF
WILLIAM A. STANLEY
BEFORE THE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

February 22, 2013

**HB 6350, AN ACT CONCERNING THE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2015, AN
OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO REVENUE**

Good evening. My name is Bill Stanley. I am Vice President for Development + Community Relations at Lawrence + Memorial Hospital in New London. I am here today to testify in the strongest possible opposition to **HB 6350, AN ACT CONCERNING THE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2015, AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO REVENUE.**

Ladies and gentlemen, please believe me when I tell you that Connecticut's hospitals are not crying wolf. The funding cuts proposed in Gov. Malloy's budget will have a devastating impact on Lawrence + Memorial and every other hospital in the state.

At times when virtually everything – including the state of Connecticut itself – has been shut down due to hurricane, blizzard or any other disaster – natural or man-made – L+M and every other hospital in this state remained open and staffed with dedicated healthcare professionals who continued to provide quality, compassionate care around-the-clock.

However, the special work they do is their profession; it's not their hobby. They get paid to do it. And when you propose to cut millions of dollars from each of the 30 community hospitals in our state, there are going to be far fewer of these special men and women left to do volumes of work that are increasing steadily by the day.

If enacted, these cuts will have a ripple impact that I promise will elicit unpleasant reactions from your constituents, thousands of whom, I will remind you work, in these hospitals.

There will be fewer programs and services; longer waits in the Emergency Room; bond ratings will be lowered and our ability to grow will be stunted; we won't be able to afford up-to-date technology nor re-investment in our communities; and there is sure to be narrowed access to healthcare.

Two years ago, when Governor Malloy proposed a tax on Connecticut's hospitals, we stepped up because we wanted to do our part to help the state out of its budget crisis. We were promised then that the resulting federal funds would be distributed to the hospitals and that most of us would come out ahead financially.

Under the heading of no good deed going unpunished, the governor now proposes to keep 50% of those federal funds in the first year and all of them in the second year of his budget.

That would be in addition to the gross receipts taxes we continue to pay.

That would be in addition to the \$105 million in cuts we absorbed collectively from your December session.

That would be in addition to the half-billion dollars Gov. Malloy now wants to cut in the coming two years.

We've demonstrated our willingness to help in a crisis. In fact, that's part of our mission. However, what the governor is suggesting is both disproportionate and unreasonable.

How he can promise to preserve Connecticut's social safety net, and then propose draconian cuts like these is as dumbfounding as it is disingenuous.

Taken together at our mid-sized community hospital in New London, we will take a financial hit totaling more than \$22 million over 2 ½ years. That of course doesn't include the millions more we stand to lose in federal funding through anticipated sequestration and the impact of the Affordable Care Act.

Please remember, ladies and gentlemen, that regardless of your political persuasion, your race, your ethnicity, your religion, your age or the size of your bank account – at some point in your life, you're going to need your community hospital. Please be there for us now so that we can be there for you in the future.

Thank you.

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